

Information Paper

SUBJECT: Notes from Community Action Council on 4 May 2011

1. Updates from May 2011 Community Action Council (CAC).

a. The Director of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation provided follow-up on the question from last month's CAC regarding the normal timeline for R & R excused absences in the Vernon Parish School District. She explained that the Leesville High School Principal stated that they normally excuse 10 days of leave for R & R with an official military leave form.

b. The Director of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation provided dates for the upcoming Master Resiliency Training for Family members: 13, 20, and 27 June from 0830 until 1500 at the Family Readiness Center. The Garrison Commander commented that the instructors and participants that attended the last training had only positive comments. He stated that the training will be held quarterly and encouraged participation.

c. The Director of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation addressed the comment regarding the Allen Memorial Library. They are working through the issue with the June Bugs on the patio and have scheduled weekly cleanings. If there is a specific title that a customer needs, the library staff will assist by requesting an inter-library loan or begin the purchasing process if necessary.

2. Special Events Update. The Fort Polk Special Events Coordinator reported that Blake Shelton will be the lead entertainment at the 2011 Freedom Fest on 2 Jul. Freedom Fest is from 1500-2200. The location is still to be determined. There will be military static displays, vendors, and a children's area. Applications will be distributed in the near future for FRGs to set up game booths. Shuttle buses will run from points on post and off post. Participants were encouraged to pick up a copy of the Fort Polk Life for more information on Blake Shelton.

3. Fort Polk School Support Services Education Update.

a. The School Liaison Officer reported that the Vernon Parish School Board meeting on 2 Jun at 1000 will be hosted by Fort Polk and be held at the Education Center. This meeting is open to the public.

b. The School Liaison Officer stated that there are openings available for Graduation Videos. There will be live streaming for the Leesville, Pickering and DeRidder graduation ceremonies. The Garrison Commander reminded the

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community that this was something we requested several years ago and the local schools invested the money so please take advantage of it.

- c. The Allen Memorial Library has computers specifically set up for Tutor.com.
- d. Next year children must attend 167 of the 177 days of school. Student attendance is tracked by the minute so if you take your child out for a doctor's appointment, it benefits their attendance to take them back to school when possible.
- e. An audience member asked what grades are accommodated through Tutor.com. The School Liaison Officer stated that it offers from kindergarten through college. There are even sites for adults with information such as how to interview for a job and how to write a resume.

3. Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS).

a. The BOSS will host a Pool Tournament on 6 May at 1830 at the Spare Time Lounge. The cost is \$10.00 and prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place winners. All proceeds from the Tournament will go to support care packages for Fort Polk's single Soldiers that are down range. For more information contact the BOSS Representative at 531-1948.

b. The BOSS is hosting a Golf Scramble on 20 May. The cost is \$15.00 per person or \$20.00 per team. For more information contact the BOSS Representative at 531-1948.

c. The BOSS will host a trip to Six Flags Over Texas on 21 May. The cost is \$65.00 per person and that covers transportation, lodging and admission ticket. For more information contact the BOSS Representative at 531-1948.

d. In honor of Military Appreciation Days (14 May), the Jasper Lions Club has donated 100 tickets to the Jasper Rodeo. The Rodeo starts at 1930. Tickets are available to Soldiers and Family members. Buses will leave from the Warrior Community Center at 1730. For more information contact the BOSS Representative at 531-1948.

e. McDonalds on Entrance Road will host "McSoldier Night" on 18 May in support of the BOSS Program. The Soldiers from BOSS will work from 1700-1900 and 20% of all profits made will be donated to the Boss Program.

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4. Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Update.

- a. The Bowling Center will be closed on Tuesday, 24 May, for carpet cleaning.
- b. Life Guard Training will be held 14, 15, 16 and 21 May. Please call 531-1988 for more information.
- c. The MWR Fun Day will be held on 14 May at Alligator Lake. There will be hot dogs, jumpers for the children, fishing and a rock climbing wall.
- d. The Workforce Preparation Trip is predominately for students in grades 9 -12. Youth in Louisiana cannot work until they are 15 years of age; however parents wanting to prepare their 14 year olds are welcome to have them attend.
- e. Camp Warrior I will be held 14 - 17 June and Camp Warrior II will be held 25 - 28 July at North Toledo Bend State Park for children in grades 6 - 12. It is a residential camp with activities such as kayaking, canoeing, hiking, and many other outdoor and water activities. Registration is ongoing through 31 May. Fees are \$145.00 for CYSS members and SKIES (Army Family Covenant) benefits may be used. The GC asked if children of deployed Soldiers have to pay the fee for Camp Warrior. The Director of Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation stated that there is a fee for children of deployed Soldiers. The GC requested that this information be put in the CAC notes and this information will also be sent out to the FRSAs.
- f. The ground breaking date for Chili's is scheduled for the Sep/Oct 11 timeframe. A verbal agreement is in place; however, the written agreement is not. It is anticipated that it will take approximately six months for construction once ground breaking happens. The GC confirmed that patrons of Chili's will be able to use the Chili's gift cards when the facility opens.
- g. The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) has approved the plans for the Splash Park and construction should start immediately. Anticipated time of completion is Aug 2011.

5. Public Affairs Update.

- a. The South West Louisiana All Veterans Reunion that is being held in downtown DeRidder on 21 and 22 May from 0800 until 2000 is open to everyone, not just Veterans. The Mayor's Office in DeRidder announces that the opening ceremony will be held on the 21st at 0830 with the guest speaker - Retired LTG Russel L. Honore, a Marching Unit from Fort Polk and a combined Color Guard.

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The festival will begin at 1100 downtown on Washington Avenue and will include static displays, food vendors, craft vendors, and entertainment for children. Recruiters from the other branches will be there as well and have committed to bringing static displays. There will be several fly-overs throughout the day. The Victory Bells from the WWII Museum in New Orleans will perform at 1230. In honor of the World War II Veterans they will perform 40's era music. The Veteran's Park dedication will take place at 1500, BG Clarence K.K. Chinn will provide remarks. The day will conclude with a performance by Top Flight, a part of the Air Force Band of the West and a fireworks display over Washington Avenue at 2000. On Sunday, 22 May at 0830 there will be a pancake breakfast just for Veterans' at Veteran's Park and will conclude with a performance of Farewell to Arms by the Vietnam Veterans of America at 1000.

b. Correction to the Strategic Communications CAC slide: SWLA Economic Development Alliance Lunch in Lake Charles will be held on 24 June.

c. The Public Affairs Office announced that on the home page of the JRTC and Fort Polk website they have added a tab for Fort Polk facts. It is a good resource for frequently asked questions about Fort Polk.

d. An audience member asked about the Smithsonian Exhibit in Leesville. PAO will provide more information on this event at the next CAC.

6. Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Update.

a. There was a comment regarding pink tags on the streetlights. DPW will have to check into this and will provide more information at the next CAC.

b. During Spring Cleanup 80 cubic yards of mulch was recycled. Mulch is available to Units for area beautification.

c. The pedestrian crosswalks are functional at the intersection of Louisiana Avenue and Highway 467.

d. The speed bump in front of Operations Group has been repaired.

7. Picerne Military Housing Update.

a. Picerne residents are issued pool passes and these pool passes can be used at any Picerne pool.

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b. The GC announced that the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations Environment and Energy, in reference to a Memorandum that was sent forward by the previous CG and Picerne regarding the resident responsibility program, has agreed to review a Memorandum that would allow that on Fort Polk new homes will receive a bill and the older homes billing will be held in abeyance until FY14. He also said that Picerne residents, who have outstanding utility bills that they are refusing to pay, will be turned over to a collection agency. This could have a negative impact on a Soldier's security clearance and career.

c. An audience member commented about the amount of unsupervised children in the Dogwood Terrace Neighborhood and inquired as to what is being done to counteract this danger in the summer months. The Picerne representative stated that they work closely with the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) and that the community policing is increased in summer months. Additionally, residents were encouraged to report areas of concern to their Neighborhood Centers or to contact DES and request that a patrol be sent to that area.

8. Correction to the 1st MEB Community Events slide. The 88th BSB Spouse Tour date has changed to 29 Jun.

9. Operations Group announced that the box tour scheduled for 21 May will be the last tour for the summer season due to the summer heat. The next tour will take place in September.

10. Installation Chaplain Update. The GC commented that following the Memorial Day Prayer Breakfast, the ACS Survivor Outreach Services Program will be hosting activities for Survivors in our catchment area as well as for any Soldier that died while assigned to Fort Polk. The GC stated that there may be a need for green suit escorts for Survivors if the Operations Order does not address this. Units do need to provide support.

11. Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC) Update: The MRI is anticipated to be functional by late May or early Jun 2011.

12. Exchange Update.

a. AAFES will offer 10 cents off a gallon of gas when you use your Star card from 27- 30 May.

b. Cellular One has replaced AT&T in the Post Exchange.

c. Dunkin Donuts has been contracted to open in the North Fort Polk Mini Mall.

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13. Audience Open Session.

a. The Allen Memorial Library announced they will host the summer reading program in Jun and Jul. Incentives to read are offered for beginning readers to adults. The Library also hosts a Book Club monthly. For more information contact the Allen Memorial Library staff at 531-BOOK.

b. An audience member inquired as to what DES is doing regarding the rash of burglaries in the Dogwood Neighborhood area.

c. An audience member inquired as to why the barricades that were installed at the North Fort gates leave access through the neighborhoods. The GC explained that there are plans in the works to install barricades on the roads in the housing areas that allow access to the gates; however, the money to install the barricades on the main roads came from one source and the money to install the barricades in the housing areas comes from another source and garrison is waiting for the funds to be released for that project.

21. The following issues will be addressed at the next CAC:

a. Child, Youth, and School Services will provide information on Camp Warrior fees.

b. Public Affairs Office will provide more information on the Smithsonian Exhibit in Leesville

c. Directorate of Public Works will provide the community with information on the meaning for the pink tags on the street lights.

d. Directorate of Emergency Services will provide information to the community on the status of the barricades for the streets in the housing areas.

e. Directorate of Emergency Services will provide information on the status of the burglaries in the Dogwood Neighborhood area.

Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator, 531-1897